

URGENT DECISION FORM



TO BE UPLOADED ON TO THE INTERNET BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Date: 8th April 2020 | Ref No: | | |
| Type of Decision: | | | |
| Cabinet Decision | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Council Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Key | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Non-Key | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Subject matter: | | | |
| Rough Sleeper provision within Bury to enable self-isolation and lock down. Fairways Lodge – Prestwich. | | | |
| Reason for Urgency: | | | |
| Context | | | |
| <p>Manchester City Council have sourced and started to use the Fairways Lodge hotel for their rough sleepers and have done so since Thursday the 26th March. This occurred without any consultation with Bury Council. Bury Homelessness services only became aware of this arrangement on Monday the 30th March.</p> <p>Contact has been made with MCC to discuss this arrangement and following that contact an opportunity to work in partnership with MCC has been developed to allow Bury rough sleepers to also be placed in this hotel and be local.</p> <p>The Hotel has 36 rooms and Bury will have access and use of 18 rooms for our rough sleepers.</p> <p>Bury currently has 18 known rough sleepers to our service and its become a high priority to provide local provision for our Rough sleepers rather than placed in the centre of Manchester.</p> <p>As at 8th April 16 rough sleepers were moved into Fairway with the intention to move the remaining 2 into the provision before Easter.</p> <p>The hotel has 24/7 security to help manage the facility and to ensure the rough sleepers self-isolate within their room as required and lock down. There is also MCC staff at the facility to support the existing hotel staff and security. This is also being complemented by Bury's homelessness team.</p> <p>Links are also being created with Health and their provision / services to provide support to the rough sleepers while at Fairways Lodge.</p> <p>The CEO and Deputy CEO of Bury Council including the lead Councillor for Housing and finance have been kept fully briefed on the use of this hotel / facility for our rough sleepers due to the high profile of this co-hort across GM and the need for a local offer urgently.</p> | | | |

Financial Implications

MCC have though procured this accommodation through their procurement processes and in associated with the GMCA rough sleeper accommodation framework that's been developed quickly to meet the challenges of rough sleeping.

The cost is £150 per night per person and includes the room, cleaning facilities, meals, security and support staff. Initial discussions have taken place with GMCA and the expectation and understanding is that MHCLG will meet the full costs of all rough sleeper provision across GM due to Covid-19. The total cost of placing 18 of our rough sleepers in this provision for 12 weeks would be £226,800.

The council has not received any specific funding for rough sleeps and therefore in the event that the costs are not met by MHCLG, they will fall to the council. Funding of £5.4m has been made available to the council as part of the government's allocation of £1.6bn to local authorities. Support for rough sleepers is recognised as being eligible against the funding. At this stage it is not known whether the funding will be sufficient to meet the full cost and loss of income to the council. Derailed monitoring processes are in place to assess and report on the positon.

By providing our rough sleepers with accommodation quickly to lock down and self-isolate this reduces the risk of spread of the virus and then reduces the risk of our rough sleepers becoming ill and then reduces the wider public health risks. There is a significant cost benefit associated with this provision, particularly for health with the reduction in the possible admissions to hospital and the significant greater cost of hospital care compared to the cost of providing this accommodation.

Legal Implications

Spoken to Bury Councils Legal services and no particular legal concerns apart from highlighting that Bury has no specific contractual arrangement and the hotel provision has been procured via MCC and the wider GMCA framework to provide hotel provision across GM for rough sleepers. Referrals into the provision are being managed by a centralised allocations team specifically set up to manage the rough sleeper accommodation due to Covid-19.

Risks

Bury Homelessness services became aware of the provision following complaints from the community due to the rough sleepers not adhering to the lock down directive and congregating outside. Therefore a potential risk and impact on the community. This risk can now be managed better with Bury Council staff working in collaboration with MCC staff and hotel staff to enforce were possible the lock down requirement but also working in partnership with GMP. Links and communication has already started with GMP around this provision to help reduce community concerns.

There are staffing risks due to them working in the hotel and the lack of PPE to enable them to work safe but a risk assessment has been produced to minimise that risk and we are continually trying to source appropriate PPE. Bury Council staff have been made

aware of this risk assessment to ensure the risks are minimised and include items such as social distancing, cleaning hands regularly etc.

Conclusion

This hotel will provide a quick and appropriate local provision to ensure all our known rough sleepers have safe and secure accommodation to enable them to self-isolate and lock down to reduce the spread of the virus.

Equality Impact Assessment

[Does this decision change policy, procedure or working practice or negatively impact on a group of people? **If yes** – complete EIA and summarise issues identified and recommendations – forward EIA to Corporate HR]

n/a

Decision taken:

Decision taken by:

Signature:

Date:

Chief/Senior Officer/Cabinet Chair



9.4.2020



9.4.2020

After consultation with:

Cabinet Member (if a Key Decision) or Chair or Lead Member (as appropriate)



9.4.2020

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| If it is a Key Decision, the Chair of Scrutiny Committee to agree that the decision cannot be deferred | Councillor R Caserta consulted | 9.4.2020 |
| Opposition Leader or nominated spokesperson (Council Decision) or Leader or Majority Group Member on Overview and Scrutiny Committee (if a Key Decision) to agree that the decision cannot be deferred | Councillor N Jones consulted | 9.4.2020 |
| Leader of second largest Opposition Group (if a Key/Council Decision) to agree that the decision cannot be deferred | Councillor T Pickstone consulted | 9.4.2020 |

**Although not a requirement of the constitution Councillor James Mason, Leader of Radcliffe First was also consulted.

Report Author P.Cole

Job Title – Interim Head of Housing Needs & Options

Date 8th April 2020